

# ***Stenosoma stephensi* sp. n. (Isopoda, Idoteidae), from the southwestern Mediterranean, with a note on the nomenclatural status of *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917**

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## **Abstract**

Recent collections of isopods in Alboran Island and Algeria included several specimens of the species *Stenosoma stephensi* sp. n. This is the fourteenth species described in the genus *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814. Examination of two specimens collected during the Danish oceanographic cruises of the Thor (1908–10) close to the Galite Islands, and identified as *S. acuminatum* Leach, 1814, revealed that both belong to *S. stephensi* sp. n. In light of these findings, the Mediterranean records of *S. acuminatum* are revised, and it is proposed that *S. acuminatum* is a strictly Atlantic species. An updated diagnosis for the genus *Stenosoma* is given, together with a key for the identification of its species. The nomenclatural status of the name *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917 is addressed, and although it is in prevailing usage, it is shown that *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 is the valid name of the genus.

## Keywords

new species, North Africa, Mediterranean, Alboran Island, Idoteidae

## Introduction

In his work on the isopods collected during the Danish oceanographic cruises of the Thor (1908–10) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, Stephensen (1915) identified three species belonging to the genus *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 (= *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917): two specimens of *S. acuminatum* Leach, 1814, from the Galite Islands (northern Tunisia), two specimens of *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837), from the Aegean Sea, and one specimen of *S. appendiculatum* (Risso, 1826), from Cabo da Gata (Spain). Stephensen noted that although the two specimens from the Galite Islands agreed broadly with the figures and descriptions of *S. acuminatum* provided by Dollfus (1896) and Tattersall (1911), they were “somewhat broader” and the abdomen was “[...] by no means so sharply pointed”. Upon dissection, he also noted that “there is a considerably similarity to *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837), the appendages being, however, far thicker and heavier”.

In his revision of the British Idoteids, Collinge (1917: 752) noted that “Stephensen’s *S. acuminatum* (Leach), represented by two examples from different localities – is in one case referable to *S. capito* (Rathke), the other approaching *S. lancifer* (Leach), but I am inclined to regard it as a different species”. Later, Monod (1925) corrected Collinge’s assertion, noting that the two specimens from Stephensen came from the same locality (Galite Islands) and were actually a new species (referred to by him as “*Synisoma* sp.”), whilst Stephensen’s *S. capito* was a good species collected in a different location (Greece). Since then, the status of Stephensen’s *S. acuminatum* has been addressed by several authors, most of whom suggest that it is indeed a distinct yet undescribed species of *Stenosoma* (e.g., Amar 1957; Prunus and Pantoustier 1976), and that records of *S. acuminatum* in the Mediterranean are dubious and should be revised (Junoy and Castelló 2003). Although Stephensen’s material has been available from the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (ZMUC) no further attempt was made to clarify the taxonomic status of the two specimens.

While studying the phylogeography of *Stenosoma nadejda* (Rezig, 1989) we received several specimens from the Alboran Island (provided by JM Guerra García). Analysis of the mitochondrial gene cytochrome c oxidase subunit I revealed that the Alboran specimens belonged to a very divergent lineage from “*S. nadejda*” and were potentially a new species (Xavier et al. 2011). However, because all individuals from this new lineage were *mancas*, no morphological analysis was possible. Successful sampling of adults from Algeria in 2009 allowed us to start a detailed morphological analysis of this lineage. Morphological similarities between these recently collected individuals and Stephensen’s description of *S. acuminatum*, led us to request the material from the Thor campaign (1908–10), deposited at the ZMUC.

In this work, we describe a new species of *Stenosoma*, in which we include the specimens of Stephensen (1915) from the Galite Islands, and we discuss the implications of

this finding on the distribution of *S. acuminatum* in the Mediterranean. Additionally, we address the nomenclatural status of the name *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917, which is in prevailing usage. An amended key is given for the species of the genus *Stenosoma* based on the one provided by Castellanos and Junoy (2005).

## Material and methods

Specimens were collected on intertidal algae during low tides, in the winter of 2005 (Alboran Island) and the summer of 2009 (Algeria). All specimens were preserved in 96% ethanol. Description is based on the male holotype unless otherwise stated. Body length measured dorsally from midpoint of cephalon's anterior margin to posterior of pleotelson. The holotype is deposited in the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. All taxonomic work is attributed to A. M. dos Santos and R. Xavier.

## Abbreviations

<b>BMNH</b>	The Natural History Museum, London, UK
<b>MNHNP</b>	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
<b>ZMUC</b>	Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
<b>CIBIO-UP</b>	Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Universidade do Porto, Portugal
<b>ICZN</b>	International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999).

## Taxonomy

**Order Isopoda Latreille, 1817**  
**Familiy Idoteidae Samouelle, 1819**

**Genus *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814**  
<http://species-id.net/wiki/Stenosoma>

*Stenosoma* Leach, 1814: 433.– Leach, 1815: 365.– Samouelle, 1819: 107.– Desmarest, 1823: 374.– Desmarest, 1825: 290.– Latreille, 1829: 139.– Moore, 1839: 294.– Lucas, 1840: 259.– Hope, 1851: 26.– Dollfus, 1894: 5.– Dollfus, 1896: 54.– Gerstaecker, 1901: 218.– Norman, 1904: 444.– Norman & Scott, 1906: 47.– Tattersal, 1911: 230.– Stephensen, 1915: 15.

*Leptosoma* Risso, 1826: 107 (no type species designated, see text).– Rathke, 1837: 384.– Lamarck, 1838: 270.– Hope, 1851: 26.

*Synisoma* Collinge, 1917: 750 (type species *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814, by subsequent designation of Kussakin, 1982). Monod, 1923: 97.– Monod, 1925: 70.– Amar, 1957: 74.– Daguerre de Hureaux, 1968: 87.– Naylor, 1972: 46.– Nu-

nomura, 1974: 6.— Prunus & Pantoustier, 1976: 259.— Kussakin, 1982: 184. Brusca, 1984: 107.— Rezig, 1989: 30.— Ormsby, 1991: 758.— Hedo & Junoy, 1999: 88.— Poore, 2001: 221.— Castellanos & Junoy, 2005: 1461.

**Type species.** *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814, by subsequent designation of Kussakin, 1982 (under Article 67.8).

**Remarks.** The genus *Stenosoma* was described by Leach (1814) simultaneously in two different parts of the Brewster's Edinburgh Encyclopaedia: in the main section "Crustaceology" (p. 404), and in the Appendix which was published as an integral part of that section (pp. 429–434). Leach (1815) also re-described *Stenosoma* in his popular work "A tabular view of the external characters of four classes of animals, which Linné arranged under Insecta", a reference erroneously cited as the original description by many authors (e.g. Collinge 1917; Kussakin 1982; Junoy and Castelló 2003). In neither of those publications was a type species designated.

In page 404 of the section "Crustaceology", *Stenosoma* was clearly described as a tentative subdivision of the genus *Idotea*. After the general description of *Idotea* (numbered as Genus LXIV), Leach (1814) split it into "Genus *Stenosoma* of Leach. • body linear, external antennae very long" and "•• Body thickest in the middle. *Idotea*, Leach". In the first division, Leach placed only one nominal species, *Idotea hectica* Pallas, 1772, and in the second division he placed two nominal species, *Oniscus entomon* Linnaeus, 1758 and *O. oestrum* Linnaeus, 1758. The fact that neither "Stenosoma of Leach" nor "*Idotea*, Leach" are numbered (as are all other genera in the section) and do not appear either in the list of genera and families at the beginning of the section (as does "Genus LXIV. *Idotea*", on page 386) or in the marginal notes or the index, shows that at this stage Leach was not yet sure whether genus rank should be accorded to these divisions.

In the Appendix (p. 433), however, *Stenosoma* is re-described as a genus on its own, this time numbered "XI", immediately after *Idotea* (which is Genus X). There, Leach reformulated the diagnosis of *Stenosoma* ("external antennae longer than the body, the third longer than the fourth joint; body linear"), and included two nominal species, *Idotea hectica* Pallas, 1772 and *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814. So, under Articles 12.1 and 12.2.5, the name *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 is available from page 404, where it is treated as a division of *Idotea* Fabricius, 1798, and from page 433 of the same publication where it is ranked as a genus. Under Article 24.1, precedence must be accorded to the name proposed at higher rank, i.e., *Stenosoma* as a genus, in page 433 of the Appendix. The important point here is that on page 433 Leach included in his genus the nominal species *Idotea hectica* Pallas, 1772 and *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814. Therefore, *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814 is eligible as type species of *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 (Articles 67.2 and 67.2.1).

The genus *Stenosoma* was quickly adopted by some leading French zoologists (e.g., Desmarest 1825; Latreille 1829), but others saw no reason to separate the species included within it from the well established genus *Idotea* Fabricius, 1798 (e.g., Milne-Edwards 1840; Bate and Westwood 1868). Meanwhile, congeneric species were being described from the Mediterranean. Risso (1816) described *Idotea lanciformis* from Nice (France) and later (Risso 1826) described two species from the same region in the

new genus *Leptosoma* (*L. appendiculatum* Risso, 1826, and *L. lanceolatum* Risso 1826), establishing, in part, the diagnosis for the genus that is still in use: the postabdomen (pleotelson) is unarticulated, resulting from the coalescence of the last four pleomeres, without (almost) any trace of segmentation. Rathke (1837) described *Leptosoma capito* from the Black Sea, and Lucas (1849) described *Idotea carinata* and *I. angustata* from Algeria. By the end of the 1880s there were at least 11 different species names (in the genera *Stenosoma*, *Leptosoma* and *Idotea*) for idoteids with unarticulated post-abdomen occurring in the North East Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

In his comprehensive monograph of the Idoteidae, Miers (1881) followed the more conservative approach of Milne-Edwards (1840) and Bate and Westwood (1868) and placed in the genus *Idotea* all species described as *Stenosoma* and *Leptosoma*. Later, Dollfus (1896) opted to separate the genera *Idotea* Fabricius, 1798, and *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814, laying the basis for the current taxonomy of this group. He recognized problems with Leach's oversimplified diagnosis of *Stenosoma* (see above), noting that the taxonomy behind *Leptosoma* Risso, 1826 made it "a better established genus". Hence, he retained the name *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 based on precedence, but explicitly used the diagnosis proposed by Risso (1826) to set *Stenosoma* apart from *Idotea*.

In his revision of the British idoteids, Collinge (1917) took a different approach. Based on the wrong assumption that *Leptosoma* Risso, 1826 was preoccupied, and that the name *Stenosoma* had "been used with so many varied conceptions that, with Miers, I agree that it cannot be employed for any section or division of the family" (Collinge 1917: 727), he proposed the replacement name *Synisoma*, together with an emended diagnosis of the genus. Collinge (1917) included two nominal species in *Synisoma* (*Idotea acuminata lancifer* Miers, 1881 and *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814) but did not designate a type species for the genus name.

Kussakin (1982) designated *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814 (under Article 67.7, cited as "Stenosoma acuminatum Leach, 1815") as type species of *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917. Since that was one of the originally included nominal species, Kussakin's is a valid subsequent designation. Moreover, because *Synisoma* Collinge, 1917 is a replacement name for *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 and, as discussed above, *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814 is also one of the nominal species originally included in *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814, under Article 67.8 Kussakin's is also a valid subsequent designation of *Stenosoma acuminatum* Leach, 1814 as the type species of *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814. As for *Leptosoma* Risso, 1826, as far as we can ascertain, no type species has yet been designated, and there is no indication on the present whereabouts of Risso's type material.

*Synisoma* Collinge, 1917 is currently in prevailing usage, as it has been used virtually in all works published after 1917. To promote nomenclatural stability, the ICZN allows for a reversal of precedence (Article 23.9) whenever a junior synonym is in prevailing usage provided that the two conditions defined in Articles 23.9.1.1 and 23.9.1.2 are both met. In this case, however, the first condition, that the senior synonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899, is not met. In fact, *Stenosoma* Leach, 1814 was used as a valid name in at least six works posterior to 1899: Nobre (1903), Norman (1904), Norman and Scott (1906), Tattersall (1911), Issel (1912), and Stephensen (1915).

Given the complex taxonomic history of the genus *Stenosoma* and its synonyms, their diagnoses have been modified on an ad-hoc basis to accommodate each new species described. For example, both Dollfus' (1894) diagnosis of *Stenosoma* and Collinge's (1917) diagnosis of *Synisoma* exclude species with an antennal flagellum reduced to a single clavate article. The most recent revision of the genus made by Rezig (1989) did not account for the two Pacific species, *S. pacificum* (Nunomura, 1974) and *S. wetzerae* (Ormsby, 1991). Recently, Hedo and Junoy (1999) and Castellanos and Junoy (2005) concluded that the two most important characters distinguishing *Synisoma* (= *Stenosoma*) from the other Idoteidae are a pleon lacking distinct somites and a maxillipedal palp composed of four articles. According to these authors, all other characters display a high degree of intra-generic variability. We hereby present an updated diagnosis for the genus, which is broadened from that given by Rezig (1989).

**Diagnosis.** Body elongate, lateral margins parallel or sub-parallel, sometimes widening slightly towards pereonites III–IV. Cephalon with pronounced anterolateral lobes, smooth or with a pronounced dorsal tubercle; eyes lateral, small. Antennulae with first article expanded, flagellum composed of a single article. Antenna articles 3–4 longer, flagellum multiarticulated or composed of a single clavate article. Maxillipedal palp with 4 articles. Pereonites smooth, frequently with a shallow dorsal keel, seldom developing into a dorsal triangular tooth; pereonites I–III often with a pair of lateral tubercles. Coxal plates small, round, rarely medium sized and triangular, invisible in dorsal view, or visible dorsally on peronites II–VII or V–VII. Pereopods ambulatory, slender and sub-equal, terminating in a biungulate dactyl with simple setae. Pleon without articulating pleonites (pleotelson), pleonites I–III frequently indicated by incomplete sutures visible ventrolaterally or dorsally (pleotelsonic formula 0+3); pleotelson long, not less than one third of body length, terminally pointed; dorsal surface smooth or with a shallow keel. Penes attached to posterior ventral margin of pleonite 1, fused basally as a penial plate divided over most of its length. Uropod uniramous, endopodite more or less triangular in shape.

**Species included.** *S. acuminatum* Leach, 1814; *S. appendiculatum* (Risso, 1826); *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837); *S. carinatum* (Lucas, 1849); *S. lancifer* (Miers, 1881); *S. spinosum* (Amar, 1957); *S. bellonae* (Daguerre de Hureaux, 1968); *S. pacificum* (Nunomura, 1974); *S. nadejda* (Rezig, 1989); *S. mediterraneum* (Rezig, 1989); *S. wetzerae* (Ormsby, 1991); *S. raquelae* (Hedo & Junoy, 1999); *S. albertoi* (Castellanos & Junoy, 2005); *S. stephensi* sp. n.

### ***Stenosoma stephensi* Santos and Xavier, sp. n.**

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EDEC2356-58AE-4DBA-B99D-41042CCB0607

[http://species-id.net/wiki/Stenosoma\\_stephensi](http://species-id.net/wiki/Stenosoma_stephensi)

**Material examined.** *Holotype:* ♂ (13.0 mm, partially dissected, preserved in ethanol 96%), Dellys, Boumerdès, Algeria, 36°55'27.14"N, 3°53'42.30"E, 6 Aug 2009, intertidal seaweeds (ZMUC-CRU-20458).

*Paratypes:* ♂ (12.5 mm), ♀ (11.0 mm), Galite Islands, Bizerte, Tunisia, (approx. 37°31'27.21"N, 8°56'23.54"E), 5 Feb 1909, 'on the shore' (Stephensen, 1915) (ZMUC-CRU-20228). 2♂ (10.5, 8.9 mm), Dellys, Boumerdès, Algeria, 36°55'27.14"N, 3°53'42.30"E, 6 Aug 2009, intertidal seaweeds, (CIBIO-UP, SstDel5 and SstDel9). 3♂ (10.1, 9.9, 10.5 mm), 3♀ (1 ovig. 11.8 mm, 2 non-ovig. 9.1, 9.8 mm), Tighremt, Bejaïa, Algeria, 36°52'0.60"N, 4°51'25.29"E, 4 Aug 2009, intertidal seaweeds (CIBIO-UP, SstTit4, SstTit2, SstTit18, SstTit1, SstTit15, SstTit17, respectively). 2♂ (13.2, 7.9 mm), Sidi Khaled, Tigzirt, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria, 36°53'48.52"N, 4°10'52.46"E, 28 Jul 2009, intertidal seaweeds (CIBIO-UP, SstTiz16, SstTiz17). 3 mancas (3.8, 4.1, 4.3 mm), Alboran Island, Spain, 35°56'58.06"N, 3°01'48.57"W, 12 Feb 2005, intertidal seaweeds (CIBIO-UP, SstAlb1-3).

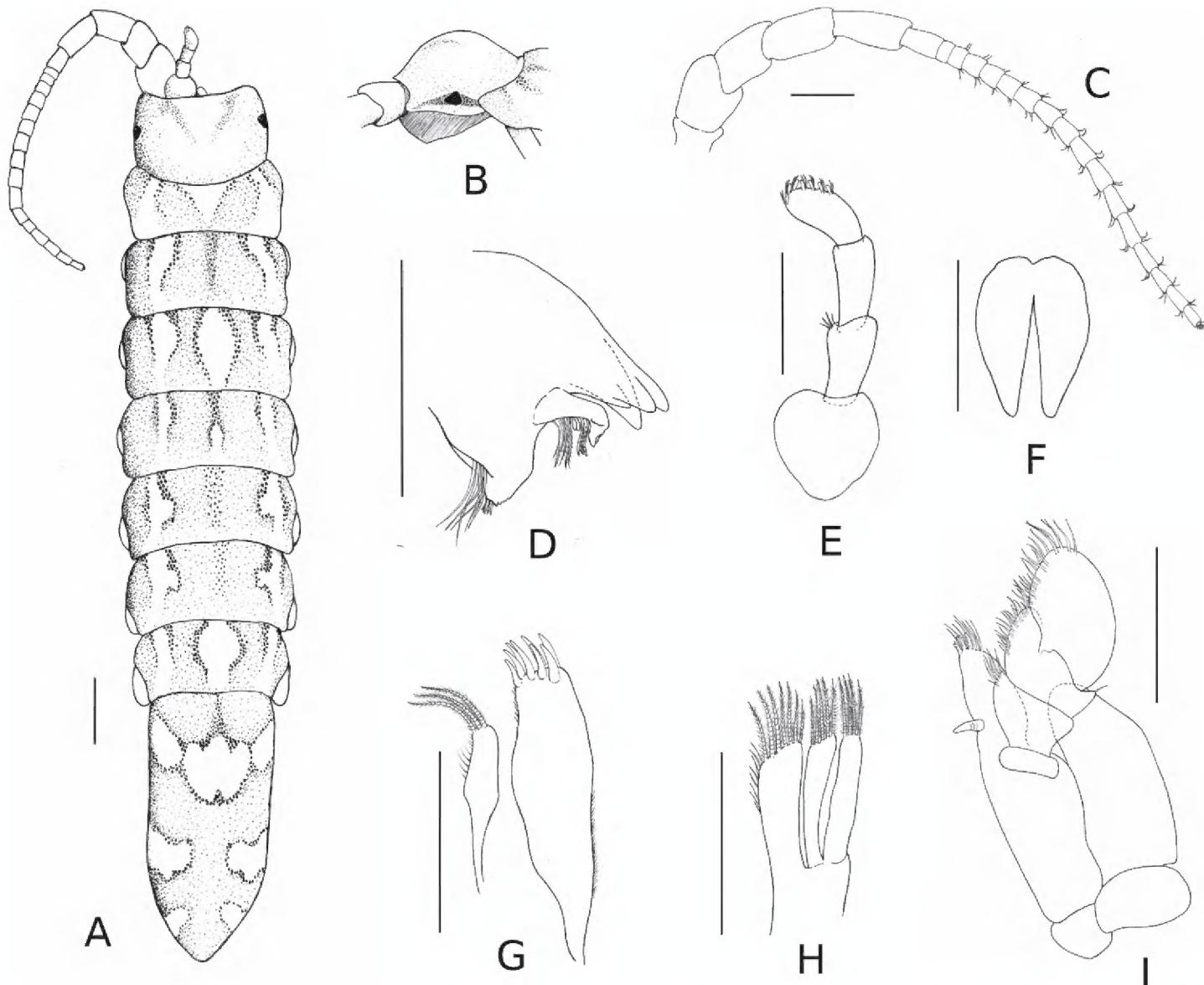
**Diagnosis.** The species is characterised by a smooth and domed cephalon, with a prominent dorsal boss in lateral view; pereonites smooth, lacking lateral tubercles; pereopods II–VII robust, with merus and carpus 1.2 and 1.1 times as wide as long, respectively; pleotelson margins parallel or subparallel, curving regularly towards distal extremity at one third of its length; pleotelson with three pairs of lateral sutures only visible in ventral view; appendix masculina long, extending beyond apical margin of the endopod by more than one fifth of its length, but not beyond apical spines of endopod.

**Description.** Body elongate, five times as long as wide (Figure 1). No secondary sexual dimorphism observable. Length of specimens in type series: 4.3–13.2 mm. Colour light brown to pale yellow, lightly pigmented.

*Cephalon* 1.3 times as wide as long, posterior margin immersed in pereonite I, smooth (no signs of mid-dorsal tubercle) but domed, with a prominent dorsal boss in lateral view; eyes dark, triangular or round, on lateral edge of cephalon; supra antennal line straight, anterolateral angles acute. *Pereonites* smooth, without dorsal carina. Coxal plates small, present on pereonites II–VII and hardly visible in dorsal aspect. All pleonites medially fused, with three pairs of small antero-lateral sutures in ventral view only. *Pleotelson* 2.4 times as long as wide, approximately one third of total body length.

*Antennule:* peduncle of three articles, article 1 ovoid, articles 2–3 cylindrical, similar in size; flagellum bearing seven pairs of aesthetascs. *Antenna:* peduncle of five articles, article 1 reduced, article 2 as wide as long, articles 3–5 progressively longer; flagellum of 17 articles, the distal one with minute vestigial apical article bearing a brush of short setae; flagellum varying from 14 to 17 articles on type series.

*Mandible:* Right mandible incisor 4 toothed; lacinia mobilis with one or two incisors; spine row with seven curved serrate spines; molar process truncate, without tooth. *Maxillule:* inner lobe with three distal plumose spines, inner margin with thin simple setae; outer lobe 1.8 times longer than inner lobe, with eight stout spines, four of them serrate; outer margin with small simple setae. *Maxilla:* trilobate, endopod with seven recurved plumose spines and eight simple setae; inner and outer lobes of exopod with five and four pectinate spines, respectively. *Maxilliped:* palp 4–articulate; exopod round; endite with a single coupling hook, five spines and a few simple setae along the distal margin.

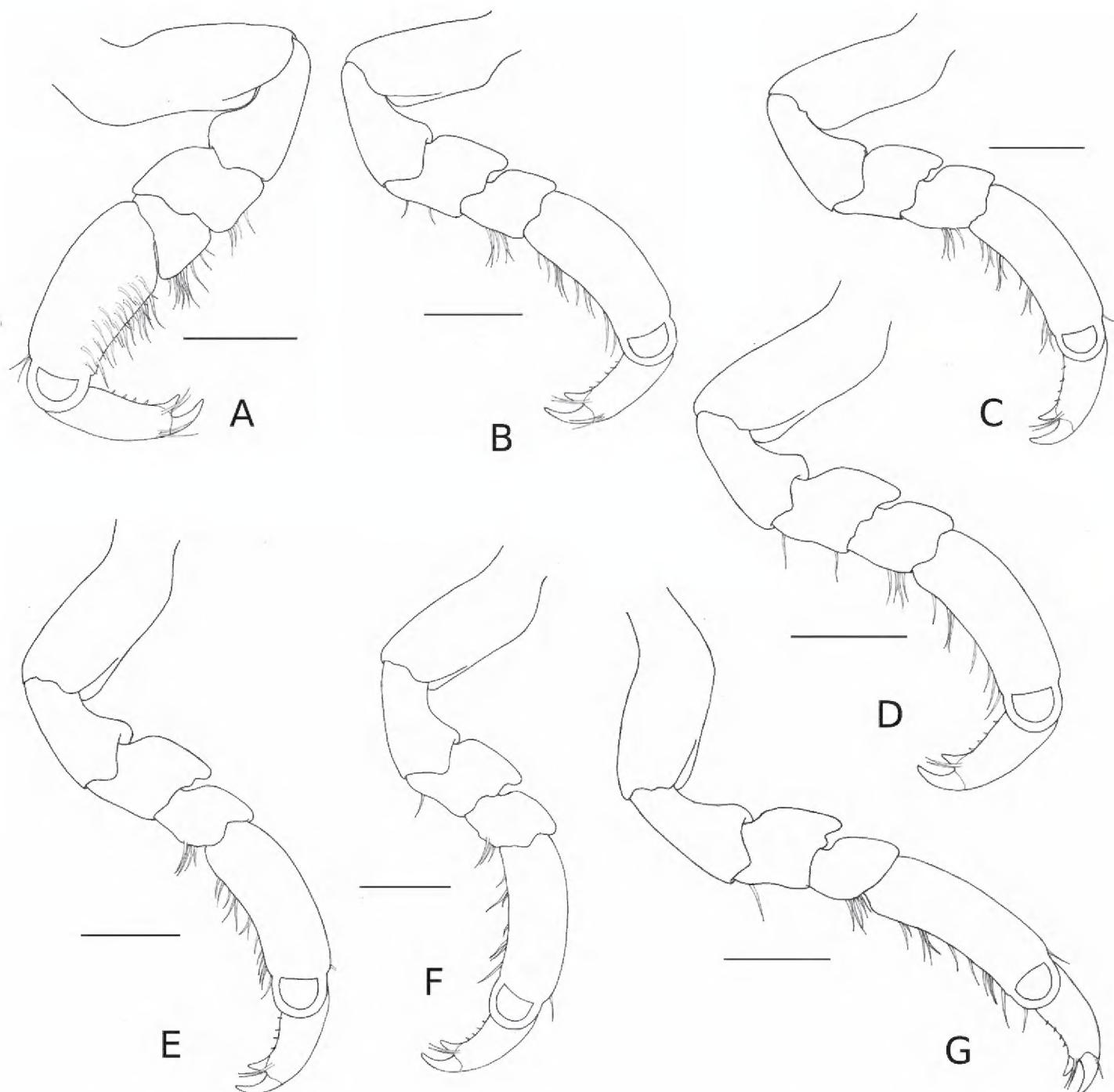


**Figure 1.** *Stenosoma stephensi*, sp. n., holotype: **A** dorsal view **B** detail of cephalon **C** antenna **D** left mandible **E** antennula **F** penis **G** maxillule **H** maxilla **I** maxilliped. Scale bars are 500  $\mu$ m, except for whole specimen (1 mm).

*Pereopods I–VII* ambulatory (Figure 2), robust, with merus 1.2 times as wide as long, and carpus 1.1 times as wide as long, terminating in a biungulate dactyl with simple setae; pereopod I with simple spines on inner surface of propodus, and weak setation on ventral margin; pereopods II–VII subsimilar; pereopods II and VI with 8–12 palmate setae on distal margin of propodus.

*Ventral penis smooth. Pleopods I–II* rami with plumose marginal setae (Figure 3); pleopod II with long appendix masculina, extending beyond endopod by more than one fifth of its length, but not beyond its apical spines, apex distal inner margin serrated, with five minute spines; pleopods III–V 1.1 times longer and 1.2 times wider than I–II, without setae. *Uropod*: uniramous, with small plumose seta on lateral distal angle of peduncle.

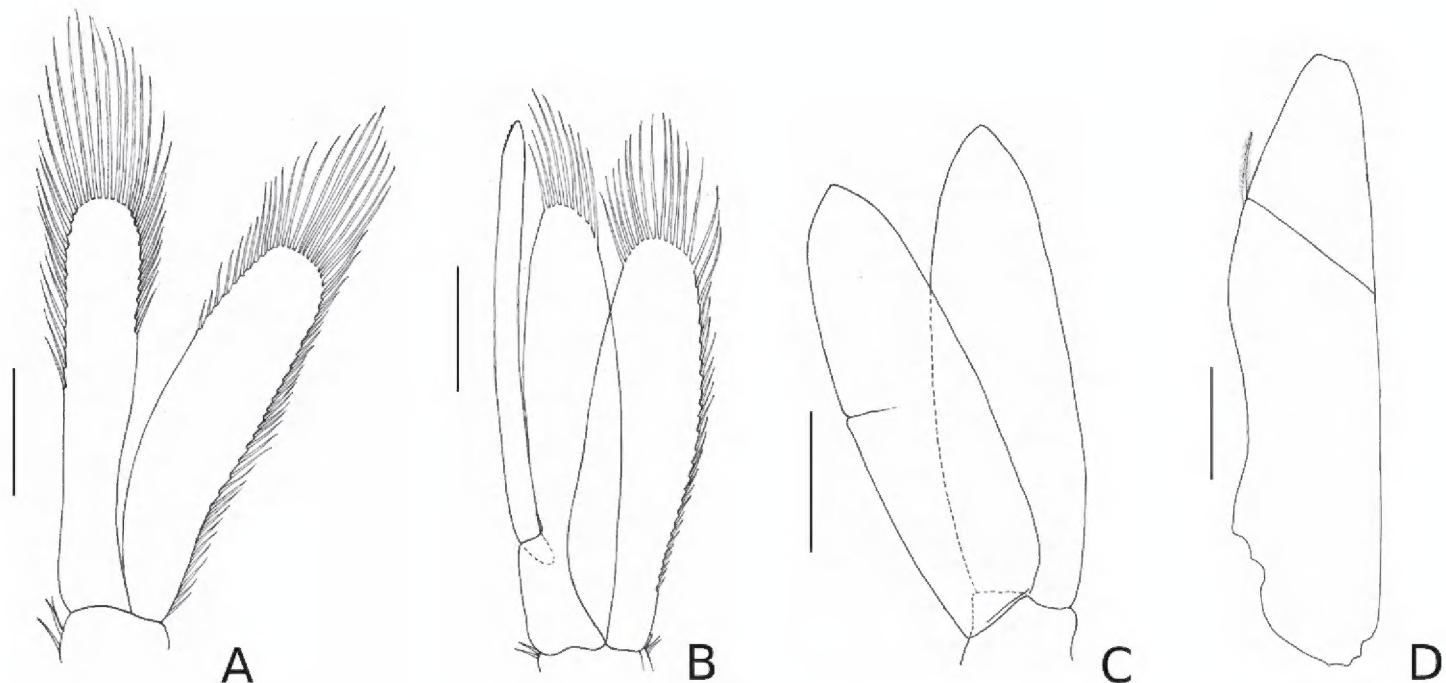
**Etymology.** The epithet honours Knud Hensch Stephensen (1882–1947), former curator of the crustacean collections at the ZMUC, who first noticed that some specimens he placed in *S. acuminatum* were likely to be a new species from the Mediterranean (Stephensen, 1915).



**Figure 2.** *Stenosoma stephensi*, sp. n., holotype: **A** pereopod I **B** pereopod II **C** pereopod III **D** pereopod IV **E** pereopod V **F** pereopod VI **G** pereopod VII. Scale bars are 500  $\mu$ m.

**Discussion.** The material from *Thor* campaigns in 1908–1810, originally described by Stephensen (1915) fits in well with the present description of *Stenosoma stephensi* sp. n. (see figures from Stephensen, 1915: 15–16). In particular, the male appendix masculina (also drawn in Stephensen's figures) leaves no doubt on the taxonomic status of both specimens.

There are three sympatric species with which *S. stephensi* sp. n. can be confounded: *S. nadejda* (Rezig, 1989), *S. mediterraneum* (Rezig, 1989) and *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837). *S. stephensi* sp. n. can be easily distinguished from all three species, as these have a mid-dorsal tubercle on the cephalon, one pair of lateral tubercles on the first two (*S. capito*) or three (*S. nadejda* and *S. mediterraneum*) pereonites, and more slender pereopods, with carpus and merus at least 1.5 times as long as wide. The appendix masculina does not extend beyond the apical margin of the endopod in *S. nadejda* (see Rezig 1989: 72), and extends beyond the apical margin of the endopod by 0.05 and



**Figure 3.** *Stenosoma stephensi*, sp. n., holotype: **A** pleopod I **B** pleopod II **C** pleopod III **D** uropod. Scale bars are 500 µm.

0.14 of its length in *S. mediterraneum* and *S. capito*, respectively. However, in the latter two species, the appendix masculina reaches the tip of the apical spines of the endopod (see Rezig 1989: 49, 65), whereas in *S. stephensi* sp. n. it does not (Figure 3B).

As discussed below, the inclusion of Stephensen's specimens labeled “*S. acuminatum*” in *S. stephensi* sp. n. has implications for the distribution of *S. acuminatum*. According to Naylor (1972, 1990), *S. acuminatum* ranges from the southwest coasts of Britain to the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Black Sea. However, no factual information (reference, site/date) is given for the presence of this species in the Mediterranean. Stephensen's (1915) record remains as the only published and verifiable record of *S. acuminatum* in the Mediterranean.

After the description of *S. acuminatum* by Leach (1814), many authors opted to synonymise it with *S. appendiculatum* (Risso, 1826) or *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837). White (1847: 95), in his “List of the specimens of Crustacea in the collection of the British Museum”, listed a single specimen of *Idotea acuminata* from England (Leach's own *S. acuminatum* from Devon, see also White 1850) and three specimens from Tripoli (unknown collector). As Leach never mentioned any material other than the one from Devon in his descriptions of *S. acuminatum* (Leach, 1814, 1815), the specimens from Tripoli must have been acquired later.

Bate and Westwood (1868: 394) re-described *I. acuminata* from the British Isles, basing their drawings and description on Leach's specimen, but included “*Idotea capito*” from the Black Sea (attributed to Rathke 1937) in the list of synonyms. Thus, although they did not mention explicitly the Mediterranean, their popular reference clearly led the unaware reader to infer the presence of *S. acuminatum* in that region. Gourret (1891) corrected the error of Bate and Westwood (1868), but subsequent authors acknowledged their synonymy (e.g. Carus 1885; Stebbing 1893; Gerstaecker 1901; Monod 1923), always referring the presence of *S. acuminatum* in both the Medi-

terranean and the Atlantic. Yet, none of these works added a single new record of *S. acuminatum* from the Mediterranean, data being copied from earlier literature without further checking of taxonomic consistency. For example, Carus (1885) lists *I. acuminata* from the Mediterranean, synonymising it with “*S. acuminatum* Leach, *I. capito* Rathke, *Leptosoma lanceolatum* Risso, *I. lanciformis* Risso”, and ranging from “Mare Britannicum” (data taken from Leach, 1814), “Pontus Euxinus” (Black Sea, data taken from Rathke 1837), Nice (data taken from Risso 1816), and Lissa, Lesina and Curzola (Croatia, Adriatic) which are records of *I. capito* (=*S. capito*) from Heller (1866).

Neither Miers (1881) nor Collinge (1917) helped in eliminating this confusion. Miers (1881) united all described *Stenosoma* species (except *S. carinatum*) under a single species: *Idotea acuminata*. However, he mentioned that “This is a very variable species, and I have been obliged to unite under one name several types that have usually been considered distinct”. He correctly placed the specimens from Tripoli belonging to the collections of the British Museum in the variety “*appendiculata*”, which he synonymised with *S. appendiculatum* (Risso, 1826). Collinge (1917) who did not examine any British specimens of *S. acuminatum*, copied literally the description of Miers (1881), along with its presumed distribution (Mediterranean, Adriatic, Black Sea and Atlantic, up to Scotland). These inaccuracies made their way into popular references (Naylor 1972, 1990), and although some authors questioned the presence of *S. acuminatum* in the Mediterranean (Amar 1957; Prunus and Pantoustier 1976; Junoy and Castelló 2003), the record of Stephensen (1915) has always been there to attest to the contrary.

By including the two specimens from the campaigns of the Thor (Stephensen 1915) in *S. stephensi* sp. n. the only published and verifiable record of *S. acuminatum* in the Mediterranean is eliminated. Other published records (e.g. Graeffe 1902; Argano and Campanaro 2011) should be checked if collections are available. These are likely to be misidentifications of *S. appendiculatum*, as is the case of the unpublished record of A. Dohrn from Naples (1957-06-16), labeled “*Synisoma acuminata* Leach”, and deposited at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn. Specimens can be observed online (see movie for CRU072 at [http://szn.i.hosei.ac.jp/HTML/Prep\\_list.php?Family=Idoteidae&ListType=icon](http://szn.i.hosei.ac.jp/HTML/Prep_list.php?Family=Idoteidae&ListType=icon)). Their pereon margins are clearly serrated (triangular coxal plates) and the pleotelson shape is like an ink pen nib, two features characteristic of *S. appendiculatum*.

### A note on *Idotea angustata* Lucas, 1849

During this work, the description of *Idotea angustata* Lucas, 1849 came to our attention. This species was described from Algiers (Algeria), and judging from its original description, clearly belongs to the genus *Stenosoma*, together with *I. carinata* Lucas, 1849. Carus (1885) included Lucas' record in his list of the Mediterranean fauna, but since then *I. angustata* has never been used as a valid name again. Some authors synonymised it with *S. acuminatum* (e.g., Miers 1881), others with *S. capito* (Monod, 1925; Kussakin, 1982). Both the drawing and the description of *I. angustata* bear

some similarities with *S. stephensi* sp. n. but also with three other sympatric species: *S. mediterraneum* (Rezig, 1989), *S. nadejda* (Rezig, 1989), and *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837)

Lucas refers that “La tête est légèrement gibbeuse” [the head is slightly convex] and that “Les organes de la locomotion sont courtes et assez robustes” [the organs of locomotion are short and rather robust], but the lack of any reference to the presence/absence of lateral tubercles in the first pereonites, and the exact shape of the pleotelson and the protuberance of the cephalon make this description ambiguous. Hence the name *Idotea angustata* which, according to the rules of the ICZN, is available from Lucas (1849), could be either a junior subjective synonym of *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837) or a senior subjective synonym of *S. mediterraneum* (Rezig, 1989), *S. nadejda* (Rezig, 1989) or *S. stephensi* sp. n. According to Rezig (1989), Lucas’ specimens were deposited at the MNHNP, but they could not be found there and currently there is no indication as to their present whereabouts (Danièle Defaye, *pers. comm.*). Unless these material is found, *S. angustata* (Lucas, 1849) has to be treated as a *nomen dubium*.

### Key to the species of the genus *Stenosoma*

1	Antenna with multiarticulated flagellum.....	2
–	Antenna with single clavated flagellar article .....	12
2	Pleotelson without anterolateral sutures in either dorsal or lateral views .....	3
–	Pleotelson with one or three anterolateral sutures in dorsal or lateral views...	8
3	Pleotelson with three suture lines in ventral view .....	4
–	Pleotelson without suture lines in ventral view.....	5
4	Cephalon with mid-dorsal tubercle; pereopods II–VII slender, with carpus and merus longer than wider; pereonites I–III with lateral tubercles .....	
	..... <i>S. nadejda</i> (Rezig, 1989)	
–	Cephalon smooth, domed; pereopods II–VII robust, with carpus and merus slightly wider than longer; pereonites I–III smooth.....	<i>S. stephensi</i> sp. n.
5	Cephalon with a mid-dorsal tubercle or spine... <i>S. wetzerae</i> (Ormsby, 1991)	
–	Cephalon smooth .....	6
6	Pereon sides straight and parallel, coxal plates barely visible from above; pleotelson sides narrowing fairly evenly to an acute terminal projection .....	7
–	Pereon sides appearing serrated, coxal plates triangular in dorsal view; pleotelson shape like an ink pen nib.....	<i>S. lancifer</i> (Miers, 1881)
7	Antenna large, flagellum with more than seven articles .....	
	..... <i>S. acuminatum</i> Leach, 1814	
–	Antenna short, flagellum with 5–7 articles... <i>S. pacificum</i> (Nunomura, 1974)	
8	Pleotelson with one anterolateral suture in dorsal or lateral views.....	9
–	Pleotelson with three anterolateral sutures in dorsal or lateral views .....	10
9	Cephalon with a bilobed mid-dorsal tubercle; pereonites bearing a mid-dorsal spine .....	<i>S. spinosum</i> (Amar, 1957)
–	Cephalon smooth; body with dorsal carina... <i>S. appendiculatum</i> (Risso, 1826)	

- 10 Dorsal surface of anterior pereonites with tubercles; pleotelson narrow..... 11
- Dorsal surface of anterior pereonites smooth, not tuberculate; pleotelson wide, shield-shaped (about 1.2 times as long as wide) .... *S. carinatum* (Lucas, 1849)
- 11 Pereon with a mid-dorsal carina; one pair of lateral tubercles on the first two pereonites; pleotelson shape like an ink pen nib, with three anterolateral sutures visible laterally only ..... *S. capito* (Rathke, 1837)
- Pereon without carina; one pair of lateral tubercles on the first three pereonites; pleotelson sides narrowing fairly evenly to an acute terminal projection, with three anterolateral sutures visible in dorsal view .....  
..... *S. mediterraneum* (Rezig, 1989)
- 12 Pleotelson wide (length about 1.2 times width), shield-shaped, first suture larger than others..... *S. bellonae* (Daguerre de Hureaux, 1968)
- Pleotelson narrow (length equal to or more than 1.5 times width), lateral sutures short, all of the same length ..... 13
- 13 Cephalon smooth; body without dorsal carina; maxilliped with one coupling hook ..... *S. raquelae* (Hedo & Junoy, 1999)
- Cephalon with a bilobed mid-dorsal tubercle; body with dorsal carina; maxilliped with two coupling hooks..... *S. albertoi* (Castellanos & Junoy, 2005)

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